

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WARSAW 04234 211604Z

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ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5373

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C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 4234

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJ: EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES: CENTER FOR AMERICAN CIVILIZATION

REF: WARSAW 3509; STATE 158788

1. CAO KEY MET LAST WEEK WITH RECTOR ZYGMUNT RYBICKI OF WARSAW UNIVERSITY TO CLARIFY THE SITUATION REPORTED IN PARA 5 OF WARSAW 3509. RECTOR RYBICKI ASSURED KEY THAT THE UNIVERSITY'S INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING THE CENTER REMAINED HIGH. HOWEVER, HE HAD SOME RESERVATIONS ON GOING AHEAD WITH THE PLANNING AND EXECUTION OF THE PROJECT ON THE EMBASSY-TO-UNIVERSITY LEVEL.

2. RYBICKI STATED FLATLY THAT IF THE EMBASSY DECIDED IT WANTED TO PROCEED ON AN EMBASSY-TO-UNIVERSITY LEVEL, THEN HE WOULD HAVE TO REFER THE EMBASSY TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS, AND VERY POSSIBLY, SOME KIND OF FORMAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. RYBICKI CLEARLY IMPLIED HE HOPED TO AVOID SUCH A GOVERNMENTAL ARRANGEMENT SO THAT HIS PLANNING FOR CENTER ACTIVITIES AND THE EMBASSY'S PLANNING AND SUPPORT ARE SUBJECTED TO A MINIMUM OF POLISH GOVERNMENT SUPERVISION.

3. THE RECTOR URGED THE EMBASSY TO CONSIDER HAVING A PRIVATE UNIVERSITY, A CONSORTIUM OF UNIVERSITIES, OR A FOUNDATION ASSUME THE ROLE OF PARTNER IN THE ENTERPRISE AND CARRY ON THE FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE NEEDED TO ESTABLISH THE CENTER. ACCORDING TO RYBICKI THE PRIVATE PARTNER AND THE UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW WOULD KEEP THE EMBASSY FULLY INFORMED

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PAGE 02 WARSAW 04234 211604Z

AND WE WOULD BE ABLE TO SUPPORT THE CENTER MATERIALLY AND

WITH VISITING LECTURERS JUST AS THE FRENCH DO WITH THEIR CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY.

4. THE EMBASSY FINDS DEFINITE MERIT IN THE RECTOR'S PROPOSAL TO CLOTHE THE PROJECT IN A MORE PRIVATE CHARACTER. FINDING THE RIGHT SURROGATE INSTITUTION WILL UNDOUBTEDLY PUSH BACK THE OCTOBER ONE DEADLINE WE HAD SET FOR HAVING A QUALIFIED DIRECTOR ABOARD. BUT IF WE CAN SOON PRESENT AN AGREEABLE PRIVATE ALTERNATIVE, THE PROJECT, WHICH HAS THE EMBASSY'S AND THE RECTOR'S UNDIMINISHED INTEREST AND SUPPORT, WILL HAVE EXCELLENT PROSPECTS FOR SUCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION.

5. IT WAS OBVIOUS TO THE CAO THAT THE RECTOR HAD RECEIVED A CLEAR SIGNAL FROM ABOVE TO MAKE SLOWER FORWARD MOTION IN HIS ATTEMPTS TO FORGE MORE EXCHANGE LINKS BETWEEN HIS UNIVERSITY AND US INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING. HE WHATS HIS INITIATIVE ON THE CENTER FOR AMERICAN CIVILIZATION TO SUCCEED ON TERMS THAT THAT WILL GIVE BOTH SIDES AS FREE A HAND AS POSSIBLE TO ORGANIZE AND ADMINISTER ITS ACADEMIC AND CULTUTAL ACTIVITIES.

6. THE EMBASSY APPRECIATES THE DEPARTMENT'S AND THE AGENCY'S SUPPORT FOR THIS PROMISING PROJECT AND SOLICITS ASSESSMENTS OF THE COURSE OF ACTION SUGGESTED BY THE RECTOR.

DAVIES

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